

Republicans Battle For Watch Dog Panel

All 15 Republicans on the House Government Operations Committee signed a statement yesterday strongly opposing the ordered abolition of its subcommittee on foreign operations and Government information.

Rep. Florence P. Dwyer (R-N.J.), senior GOP member, said Republicans would if necessary cast 15 votes to override the decision of Chairman William L. Dawson (D-Ill.) to put the subcommittee out of existence. If three Democrats joined them, Dawson could be overruled.

Rep. John E. Moss (D-Calif.), chairman of the subcommittee that has made a name challenging secrecy in Government, said he had talked with Dawson who said he would "review the matter."

Dawson justified his action on economy grounds.

But Republicans said it made no sense to abolish what they consider the most worthwhile watchdog subcommittee in the House. They noted that the Moss subcommittee accounted for 39 per cent of the \$800 million savings in the cost of Government made last year by the Committee and its 10 subcommittees.

Some Republicans said they felt a major reason for Dawson's action was a critical report on Vietnam land reform by the subcommittee that was not kindly received by the Administration.